

## MEMORANDUM

To: Participants in the Electric Affordability Collaborative

From: Susan Hudson, Clerk of the Board

Re: Follow up on the October 17, 2006, workshop; questions for utilities regarding arrearages; schedule for the remainder of the process

Date: October 19, 2006

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The purpose of this memo is to follow up on the October 17, 2006, Electric Affordability Collaborative workshop, to put in writing the schedule for the remainder of the collaborative process, and to request certain information from participating utilities.

### Schedule

The Board has established the following schedule for the remainder of the process:

- November 3: utility responses due to questions from the Board on arrears (see page 2)
- November 10: legislative proposals due from participants who wish to file.
- November 22: written comments due on participant legislative proposals.
- November 29 by noon: reply comments due on participant legislative proposals.
- November 30, 9:30-noon: workshop on participant legislative proposals.
- December 15: target date for issuance of Board legislative proposal draft.
- Ten working days from issuance (but no earlier than January 9): written comments on Board legislative proposal draft.

### Guidance to parties on proposals

The following guidance to participants is intended to assist in the submission of legislative proposals.

1. The Board assumes that the legislation to be submitted as a product of this process will provide the necessary authority and overall program outline, but that details of implementation will be delegated to an appropriate body, whether the Board or another entity. Legislative proposals submitted by the participants may reflect this

assumption. If a proposal does not incorporate this assumption, please explain how the proposed program will be implemented.

2. The Board intends to provide several funding level scenarios, with cost and benefit information, to the legislature, rather than recommending a particular funding level. To the extent possible within available information, proposals should include sufficient economic and funding information to ascertain: (a) the need the proposed design is intended to meet; (b) the funding levels required to meet that need; and (c) the rate, bill or other funding implications of the proposed design. Providing alternative funding levels – such as a limited implementation level and an optimal implementation level – is encouraged.
3. As discussed at the October 17 workshop, the Board also invites submission of draft legislative language to accomplish the sharing of customer information among utilities, the state Fuel Program office and the Energy Efficiency Utility to permit more effective targeting of low income customers for energy efficiency services. This language may be separate from the affordability legislation proposals.

#### Questions to the participating utilities about arrearages

In order to facilitate the development of funding proposals for any arrearage forgiveness component of affordability legislative proposals, the Board is asking participating utilities to provide information about arrearages to the group by November 3. The purpose of the information is to attempt to calculate an average amount of arrears per household for likely participants in a electric affordability program. It is clear from discussions within the collaborative that no ideal method for this calculation exists within current utility information systems. Based on the October 17 discussion, the Board asks the utilities to use one of the following methods to calculate an average arrearage. (The first method is the preferred method.)

1. Identify accounts that have received some form of payment assistance (such as seasonal fuel assistance for electric heat, crisis fuel assistance for electricity, Warmth, ShareHeat, Power Partners, or any other payment assistance program). For those accounts, provide the total number of accounts and the dollar amount of 90-day arrearage on October 1, 2006. If it is not possible to go back to October 1, but it is possible to take a snapshot as of the date of the analysis, please provide that snapshot.
2. For utilities that have no indicator in customer records of payment assistance, please provide the total number of residential accounts that had 90-day arrears on October 1, 2006, and the total dollar amount of those arrears. If it is not possible to go back to October 1, but it is possible to take a snapshot as of the date of the analysis, please provide that snapshot.

Questions about the collaborative should be directed to Deena Frankel,  
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